

Remarks

Claims 13, 21 and 23 are amended and claims 25 to 36 are added. Claims 13 to 36 are pending in this application of which only claims 13 and 25 are in independent form.

Applicants have included a cross-reference to international application no. PCT/DE00/03340 in compliance with OG Notice of March 18, 2003.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because claim 13 recited the limitation "said high-pressure pump" in line 8 thereof for which there was insufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, claim 13 is amended to correct the recitation of the limitation noted by the Examiner. The claim should now be definite as required by the statute.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Feild. The following will show that claim 13 patentably distinguishes the invention over this reference.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of claim 13 because Feild does not disclose any consumers of a fuel cell system such as fuel cells or a reformer. Accordingly, it is not seen how our person of ordinary skill could possibly hit upon Feild to arrive at the applicants' invention.

The arrangement shown in Feild does include a load-pressure pump and a high-pressure pump as well as metering valves. However, this reference discloses a tank for supplying an aqueous

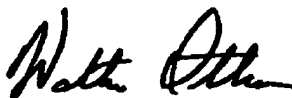
solution containing detergents. This solution is mixed with the water moved by the pump and is sprayed at the output via cleaning nozzles (A-I, A-II, A-III). It is clear that the arrangement of Feild, which provides an alkaline solution via cleaning nozzles, is not suitable to make a fluid available which is needed in a fuel cell system.

In view of the above, applicants submit that claim 13 patentably distinguishes the invention over Feild and should be allowable.

Claims 25 to 36 are added to provide additional definitions of the invention and are directed to a fuel cell system per se.

Reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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